THE Marketing and Transportation SITUATION

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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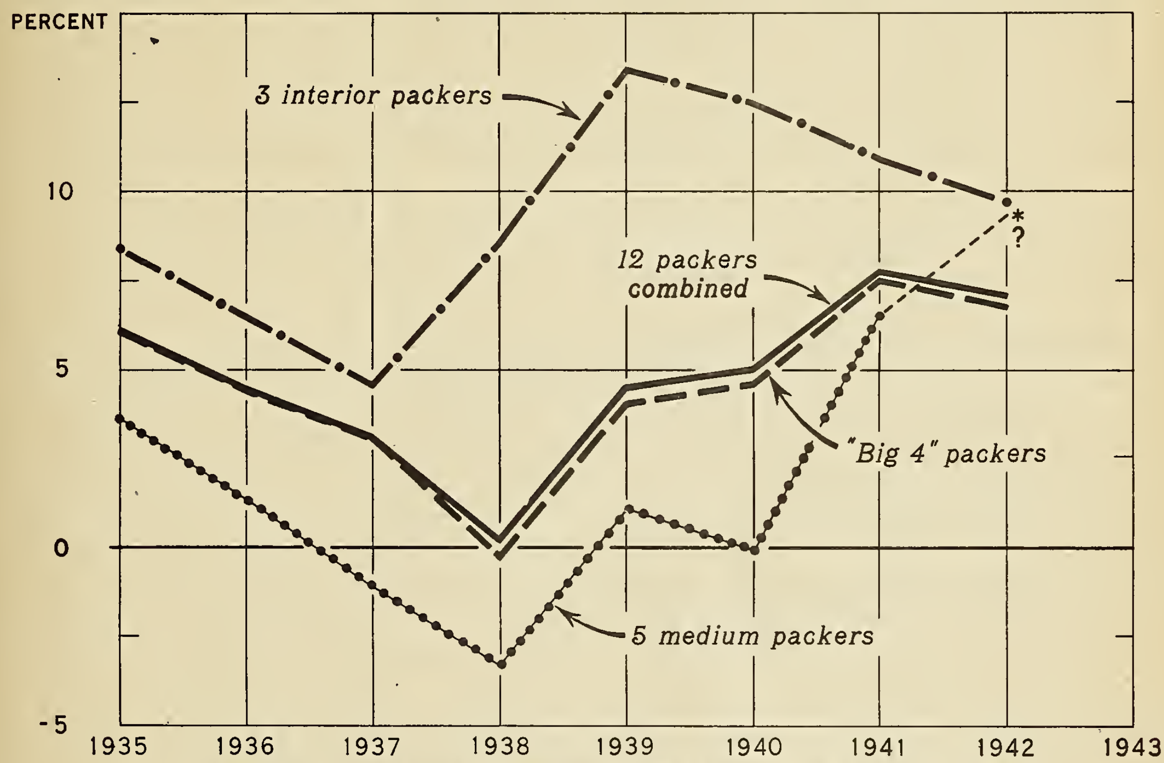
MEAT-PACKING CORPORATIONS: PERCENTAGE OPERATING PROFIT (LESS PROVISION FOR FEDERAL TAXES) IS OF INVESTMENT, 1935-42



* 1942 PROFIT RATE OF MEDIUM PACKERS ESTIMATED FROM DATA FOR TWO COMPANIES

U. S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 42896 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Despite war-time difficulties which greatly reduced the margin between prices received for certain livestock products and prices paid for livestock during a part of 1942, packers making public financial reports showed relatively good profits in that year. Operating profits after deducting Federal taxes were about the same in 1942 as in 1941. For the reporting companies they averaged about 7 percent of investment. This record was made possible partly because of changes in types of products sold and decreased unit overhead costs arising from the larger volume of slaughter. Many packers are said to have suffered losses in recent months of high livestock prices in relation to product prices, but no monthly or quarterly data are available.

MARKETING AND TRANSPORTATION SITUATION

FEBRUARY - MARCH 1943

SUMMARY

Marketing charges on farm food products declined 1 percent from January to February, following similar declines for each of the two preceding months. The farmer's share of the consumer's food dollar rose to 57 cents in February, the highest on record since 1920.

A rise of 4 percent in retail prices of the group of foods not under maximum price control on February 16 was partially offset by a slight decline for the controlled items. Retail prices of food produced on American farms rose less than 1 percent while equivalent payments to farmers rose 2 percent from mid-January to mid-February.

The apparent deficiency of about 5 million head in federally inspected hog slaughter for the 6 months, October 1942 - March 1943, below estimated supplies available for market during that period is ascribed to (1) delayed marketing with feeding to heavier weights, (2) withholding sows and gilts for breeding purposes, (3) higher death losses, and (4) higher levels of farm and local slaughter and of wholesale slaughter in plants not under Federal inspection, including "black-market" slaughter.

Reports from Corn Belt States do not confirm recent sensational statements about widespread liquidations of dairy herds for sale as slaughter cattle. In a few areas labor shortages have forced sale of herds but most slaughter of cows represents normal culling of least productive animals.

Financial statements of those meat packing corporations making public reports show that 1942 profits (after deducting higher Federal taxes) at 7.1 percent of investment were nearly as high as the 7.7 percent rate in 1941. Failures of meat product processors declined sharply from 1941 to 1942, particularly for the last half of the year.

Maximum prices were extended by the OPA to cover most important fresh vegetables during late February.

March 30, 1943

SLAUGHTER OF HOGS FROM THE 1942 SPRING CROP

The slaughter of hogs from the 1942 spring crop, normally marketed during the period October through March, has been considerably under expectations based on estimates of the size of the crop and of the monthly distribution of marketings. Various reasons have been given for this failure of slaughter to meet expectations, with many differences of opinion apparent. Due to the unknown extent of black market operations the correct answer to this question may never be known, but some light can be thrown on the problem by an examination of related statistics and the judgments of persons acquainted with livestock marketing conditions. 1/

The spring pig crop of 1942 was estimated to be 124 percent of the spring crop in 1941. But hog slaughter during the fall and winter of 1942-43 has not increased correspondingly. Hog slaughter under Federal inspection during the first 5 months of the current marketing year (October-February) was only 107 percent as large as during the corresponding months in 1941-42. Compared with a year earlier, slaughter in October was 101 percent, November 110 percent, December 118 percent, and in January only 93 percent (see table 1). Federally inspected slaughter in February was 111 percent of slaughter in the same period a year earlier. Slaughter in some nonfederally inspected wholesale plants has been decreased as a result of the Government limitation order, but in others an increase has occurred as a result of over-quota operations. The net effect of these conflicting conditions is not known, so for purposes of this analysis, it has been assumed that such slaughter has increased in the same proportion as federally inspected slaughter.

1/ The reports referred to herein were received from members of the Corn Belt Livestock Marketing Committee, which consists of representatives of 14 Corn Belt agricultural experiment stations and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. States included in the reports upon which this analysis is partly based were Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Table 1.- Hog slaughter under Federal inspection, October - January 1942-43 with comparisons

Month	1941-42	1942-43	1942-43 as a percentage of 1941-42
	Number	Number	Percent
Oct.	4,157,472	4,218,048	101
Nov.	4,560,843	5,022,659	110
Dec.	5,766,664	6,777,890	118
Jan.	5,830,613	5,430,909	93
Feb.	3,892,077	4,335,306	111
Total, 5 months	24,207,669	25,784,812	107

The failure of hog slaughter to reach expectations during the current marketing year appears to be the result of several factors, all of which exert their influence in the same direction:

(1) Marketings have been delayed during the current marketing year. Cooperators generally report that hogs are being fed to heavier weights and this is an indication of delay in marketing. The favorable hog-corn ratios, the abundance of feed, a strong demand for heavy hogs, and the support price of $13.25 for hogs, all favor the feeding to heavier weights. Hogs marketed from Indiana are estimated to run 12 to 15 pounds heavier than a year ago. A representative of a packing plant in the Northwestern Corn Belt has reported that the hogs slaughtered at his plant weighed on the average 22 pounds heavier than a year ago. Reports to the Department by packers from all parts of the United States covering a large proportion of the federally inspected plants show that the hogs slaughtered in November 1942 averaged 12 pounds heavier than in November 1941. In December they were 10 pounds heavier than for the corresponding month a year earlier, and in January the indications are 10 to 12 pounds heavier. In one of the States along the western part of the Region gains in the weight of hogs are reported to be slow owing to the feeding of soft corn. The reports also point out that the high price of supplemental feeds, such as tankage, has curtailed their use, resulting in slower gains and delaying the time when the hogs are ready for market. This indicates that a larger than usual proportion of spring pigs will be marketed after April 1.

(2) More than the normal number of gilts and sows are being withheld from market for breeding in order to increase farrowings in the spring of 1943. This is stressed in practically all of the reports from States. The estimated number of sows to farrow in the spring of 1943 (based on the December pig crop report) is 12,027,000 head, or 2,360,000 head more than were required to produce the spring pig crop of 1942. The estimated number of pigs saved from the spring crop of 1942 was 61,013,000, out of which the extra gilts to be used for breeding must be saved. This additional number amounts to 3.9 percent of the spring crop of 1942.

(3) Reports received from farmers by the Department show that death losses in 1942 were relatively much larger than in 1941. It is probable that the increase in death losses in the Corn Belt States took a toll of spring pigs of around 1 million head larger than if the death losses had been at the same rate as in 1941. For the country as a whole it probably would amount to about 1.3 million.

(4) Farm slaughter has increased considerably throughout the area according to reports. The likelihood that meat may become still more scarce during the spring and summer apparently is causing many farmers to slaughter more than the usual number of animals in order that their families may be assured of an adequate supply. It is normally common for farmers in certain sections to supply relatives and friends in town with meat during the fall and winter, and slaughter for such purposes appears to have increased. Just where the line should be drawn between legitimate slaughter and slaughter in violation of OPA regulations apparently is not clear to many farmers. Frozen food lockers, used extensively for the storage of meat, have increased considerably in recent years. Of the 4,600 now in operation in the United States, about half are found in the Corn Belt States, which are reported to be well stocked. Studies show that the meat consumption habits of farmers who use lockers have changed somewhat. Before lockers were used about two-thirds of the meat consumed was pork. With the increased use of lockers suitable for beef storage, pork consumption has decreased to one-half of the total, but this apparently did not decrease the actual volume of pork stored.

Even though considerable pork is being stored in frozen food lockers, the quantity represents a small proportion of the aggregate meat supply of the country.

(5) Nonfederally inspected slaughter other than that on farms also appears to have greatly increased. This includes slaughter by retail meat dealers, by other small local nonquota slaughterers, and also some firms presumably operating under quotas which are ignored. It is clear, of course, that the volume handled in these ways, not included in the statistics of slaughter used to measure the marketings from month to month, thereby countributes to the disparity between estimated production and slaughter. The opinions of the cooperators regarding the degree to which livestock has been shifted from normal marketing channels due to black market operations vary greatly.

The estimates of farm and retail slaughter of hogs are not available for 1942, but for 1941 farm slaughter was estimated at 12,823,000 head, and retail slaughter 3,974,000 head. In 1940, farm slaughter was estimated to be 14,155,000 head and retail slaughter 4,200,000 head. This shows that both farm and retail slaughter were especially small in 1941, the reduction from a year earlier being 9.5 percent for slaughter on farms and 5.4 percent for slaughter by retailers, or a reduction of 8.5 percent for the two types combined. In light of available information it seems probable that farm slaughter of hogs during the fall and winter of 1942-43 will show an increase of 15 percent, or 1,923,000 head, over the small slaughter a year earlier; and retail slaughter an increase of 10 percent or 397,000 head. The spring farrowed crop in 1942 was nearly 60 percent of the total number farrowed during the year but more than this proportion of both farm and retail slaughter is estimated to come out of the spring-farrowed crop. If it is assumed that farm and retail slaughter during the period October to March represents 85 percent of the total of such slaughter for the year, the estimated increase over a year earlier amounts to 1,972,000 head, or 3.2 percent of the spring farrowings in 1942.

(6) Most members of the Committee believe that farrowings in the spring of 1942 were overestimated. There is no positive evidence, however, that this is so. Most (or all) of the discrepancy can be accounted for by other factors.

Summarizing: The number of pigs farrowed in the spring of 1942 was reported to be 24 percent greater than in the spring of 1941. Federally inspected hog slaughter during the period October - March 1941-42 was 28.4 million head. If slaughter under Federal inspection during October - March 1942-43 were to increase by 24 percent (the same as spring farrowings in 1942 were reported to have increased over 1941) it would amount to 35.2 million, an increase of 6.8 million head. Federally inspected slaughter during the 5-month period October - February was 7 percent above that for the same period of the preceding year, or 1.6 million head greater. The larger than usual death losses account for 1.3 million head. The additional gilts and sows kept for breeding account for 2.4 million head, and the increase in farm and retail slaughter for 2.3 million, or a total of 4.7 million head. If all these hogs had gone for commercial slaughter (including the excess death losses), and if 65 percent of them had been slaughtered in federally inspected plants, it would account for 3.9 million head. This leaves 1.3 million hogs (of the expected slaughter) to be accounted for at plants under Federal inspection. The extent to which federally inspected hog slaughter during March will exceed that of the corresponding month a year earlier is still unknown. If it is 10 percent greater it will account for 0.4 million head. If final estimates of the 1942 spring pig crop agree with the preliminary figures, this will still leave slaughter under Federal inspection short of expectations by 1 million head, and total slaughter short by more than 1.5 million head, representing the combined effect of wholesale black markets, and the extra delay in marketings of part of the spring crop until after April.

ARE DAIRY COWS BEING LIQUIDATED ?

Many reports have been circulated throughout the country about the heavy slaughter of good dairy cows and the liquidation of dairy herds which is thought by some to have been in progress since last summer. Data on total milk production or number of cows milked do not constitute adequate evidence on this point, since the number of animals might be maintained or increased by additions of young stock while at the same time productive dairy animals were being sent to slaughter. Likewise, market statistics on the slaughter of cows and heifers, which since last July has represented a larger proportion of total cattle slaughter than a year earlier (See table 2), are not conclusive because no separation is made of dairy and beef animals.

Table 2.- Cows and heifers as percentage of all cattle slaughtered under Federal inspection, by months, 1933-42

Month	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
	Per- cent	Per- cent	Per- cent	Per- cent	Per- cent	Per- cent	Per- cent	Per- cent	Per- cent	Per- cent	Per- cent
Jan.	40	43	51	57	54	54	52	45	50	47	47
Feb.	43	44	56	49	51	48	48	43	48	45	
Mar.	42	44	56	48	50	47	48	43	46	42	
Apr.	42	42	53	45	46	44	45	39	42	38	
May	41	47	50	42	48	43	46	39	41	37	
June	44	48	49	44	51	47	43	40	40	38	
July	44	52	51	46	56	49	44	44	41	42	
Aug.	46	47	54	54	60	51	43	45	44	48	
Sept.	46	50	58	54	62	52	47	48	46	51	
Oct.	47	54	63	59	66	54	52	52	49	58	
Nov.	48	58	63	63	64	53	51	56	51	62	
Dec.	43	54	60	58	58	54	47	52	50	55	

According to reports from members of the Corn Belt Livestock Marketing Research Committee 2/ , the number of productive milk cows that have been sold for slaughter has been relatively small. Observations made by commission firms which normally handle a considerable volume of native cows at one of the largest livestock markets in the Corn Belt check closely with these reports from the States.

2/ The Committee consists of representatives of 14 Corn Belt Agricultural Experiment stations and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Reports were received from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

From South Dakota it was reported that a much larger than usual number of milk cows were marketed, mainly because of the shortage of labor. But reports from most other States tell a different story. In Minnesota, for example, it is said that the slaughter of dairy cows last fall probably was slightly greater than usual, due to fear of labor shortages, but that the best cows went back to the country and not much liquidation appears to have taken place since fall. In appraising information obtained from 31,000 farmers the Agricultural Extension Service in that State estimates that the number of cows to be milked this winter will be about the same as the number milked last winter, although the total sale of milk cows from farms has been somewhat larger during the past 6 to 8 months than in recent years. The number of milk cows on Minnesota farms January 1, 1943 was up 2 percent from a year earlier. This is partly offset by a decline of less than 1 percent in percentage of cows milked.

Wisconsin is the only State other than South Dakota reporting heavy slaughter of dairy cows. Receipts of cows at the Milwaukee Stockyards have been considerably higher than normal, but the explanation is that during 1941 and 1942 much more young stock was raised than usual. The size of herds finally increased to the point where stanchion space in barns became inadequate. Although the cows sold for slaughter included some that were fairly good producers, the animals marketed were generally those culled from herds. The number of milk cows on Wisconsin farms January 1 was 71,000 above a year earlier - the greatest increase in numbers for any State.

Despite these variations in the reports received from the several States regarding the liquidation of dairy stock, it seems rather generally agreed that most of the animals disposed of by Corn Belt farmers have been culled out because they were poor producers, and that relatively few good milk cows have been sold for slaughter. Where entire dairy herds have been dispersed, the cows in most cases have been bought by other farmers in the community and retained for dairy purposes. The sale of dairy cows seem to have been declining more recently, as would be expected as the spring freshening season is approached.

Taken as a whole, these reports tend to discount the more sensational stories of dairy cow liquidation which have been circulating during recent months.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN MARKETING AND TRANSPORTATION

1942 profits of meat packing corporations

Net profits of meat packing corporations which make public financial reports were nearly as high in 1942 as in 1941, the record profit year since 1924, even after deducting the much larger Federal corporation taxes. For a group of 12 meat packing corporations the profits after Federal income and profit taxes amounted to 7.1 percent of investment in 1942 compared to 7.7 percent of investment in 1941. The rate of profit return on investment showed a substantial increase from 1941 into 1942 for the 2 medium packing corporations from which reports were available for 1942, and showed a slight decrease for the "Big Four" packers and 3 interior packers. (See cover chart). The ratio of profits to sales dropped from 1.96 percent in 1941 to 1.31 percent in 1942 for these companies, due chiefly to higher price levels and increased volume in 1942.

This relatively favorable profit position was achieved in spite of relatively high costs of livestock during part of the year which squeezed packers' margins under the controlled prices of wholesale meat products. The ability of some packers to make profits in 1942 despite these conditions is partly explained by changes in the forms in which products were sold and by increased volume of business which reduced overhead costs per unit of product.

Statistics showing total liabilities and numbers of industrial manufacturing concerns failing (possibly involving losses to creditors) as published by Dun and Bradstreet, indicate a substantial decrease in failures of meat products processors from 1941 to 1942, with the lowest rate of failures during the last 6 months of 1942. These reports show that 10 firms failed during the first half of 1941 compared with 9 failing during the first half of 1942, and total liabilities involved dropped from $810,000 to $181,000. For the last half of the year, the number of firms failing dropped from 15 in 1941 to 6 in 1942; total liabilities fell from $765,000 to $44,000.

Packers' margins or spreads between the cost per hundred pounds of live animals and the quoted wholesale value of a fixed group of products derived therefrom dropped to near-record low levels during 1942. In spite of ceilings placed upon many important meat products at wholesale levels, prices of livestock in central markets continued to edge upward.

The packer's margin on hog products as measured by the spread between the cost of live hogs per hundredweight and the sales value of all fresh products, at quoted wholesale prices, averaged $0.85 during the 5 pre-war years 1935-39, and $0.83 in 1941. During 1942 this spread dropped until it became a minus quantity. The cost of live hogs exceeded the computed sales value of the fixed quantity of fresh products (per 100 pounds of live hog) by $0.61 in August. By mid-February 1943 the spread had dropped to a new low at $ - 1.05, from a level of $0.30 for December 1942. Of course, most meat packers carry pork products through further processing operations and the packer's margin per 100 pounds of live hogs carried through to sale of fixed quantities of cured products amounted to $1.60 for the low month of August 1942.

Ordinarily, apparent profits of meat packing corporations have been inflated during periods of rising prices by the rising values of inventory stocks of products in process and in storage. This factor has been largely eliminated by many firms in financial statements on pork processing for 1942 through the use of the "last-in first-out" method of carrying inventory valuations. Under this method, sales of products are charged with the cost of latest purchases and inventories are carried near original beginning-of-year unit valuations, and these unit valuations show little change over the year.

The profit rates for corporations do not necessarily reflect the profit position of small packers. However, the rate of failures includes smaller concerns. During the late summer of 1942 the Department of Agriculture announced a program to assist small packers through purchase of their products with supplementary payments for live hog costs above a specified level. Participation in this program was very slight, possibly due to requirements for Federal inspection and for holding slaughter at or below 1941 levels.

Point rationing of canned, frozen, and dried fruits and vegetables

Retail sales of processed fruits and vegetables were suspended by the OPA from February 22 through February 28. Consumers obtaining point ration books during that period began to purchase those items using point ration coupons beginning March 1.

Until March 1 consumers allocated their money purchasing power between items in the ration group on the basis of relative prices. After March 1, most consumers felt the restraint of the ration quota and presumably began to allocate their "point purchasing power" among items chiefly on the basis of relative point values. As between any two items in the group, a cheapening of one in terms of the relative point values below its original relative price value would ordinarily cause some shift of consumer demand toward the cheapened item and away from the other item, as may be necessary to equate demand and supply under conditions of rationing. The relative point values as originally announced in some instances differed widely from relative prices at retail reported for January by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Of course, the determination of relative point values also allows for temporary abnormalities in demand and supply for each of the various items affected and may allow for factors aside from their influence upon the equation of demands to supplies. For these reasons relative point values will ordinarily diverge from recent price ratios. It is of interest to trace the transition and appraise its effects on the demand for farm food products.

For example, as originally announced, a No. 2-1/2 can of peaches was valued at 21 points compared to 20 points per pound of dried prunes. (On March 11, OPA announced a revision of point values for prunes and raisins down to 12 points per pound, effective March 13, and this was followed at the end of the month by a revision to zero point values.) In mid-January retail prices were 25.5 cents per can of peaches and 16.3 cents per pound of prunes. These price ratios represented a decided consumer preference for a can of peaches over a pound of prunes which was not reflected in the original point values. Presumably after point rationing became effective a share of the demand which had been directed toward the purchase of prunes was shifted to the purchase of canned peaches. On the other hand, the original point values of 8 per pound of navy beans (revised to 4 points effective March 13) and 16 per No. 2 can of peas determined a relative valuation close to that of the January prices of 9.5 cents and 15.0 cents.

60 day retail price freeze for 7 important fresh vegetables

Because of sharply increased demand and rising prices for fresh vegetables stimulated by the announcement of ration point values for processed fruits and vegetables, the OPA issued temporary 60-day maximum price orders for the 7 important fresh vegetables heretofore uncontrolled. The first order, effective February 23, fixed temporary maximum prices for fresh tomatoes, carrots, cabbage, and green and wax beans at levels not exceeding prices charged during the period February 18 to 22. The second order, effective February 25, placed temporary ceilings on spinach and lettuce at February 20 to 24 levels. Regional OPA offices were given authority to adjust these ceilings where required by local conditions.

Some effects of maximum price differentials by dealer type and service

In the setting of numerous "dollar-and-cents" maximum prices and dealer mark-ups to supplant previous "individual dealer" ceilings for farm products it has been necessary to establish "reasonable" differentials in prices which may be charged according to class of dealer and to extent of service rendered. Investigation was made of differentials which existed during recent periods and the reasonable differentials in maximum prices were based upon these findings. However, differentials can only be defined on the basis of a limited number of the more obvious characteristics of dealers and fail to specify a variety of minor distinctions in service rendered which have also affected the size of differentials observed in the past. It is probable that under the pressure of increased demand and higher costs a number of these less obvious elements of service will be eliminated to cut costs without causing the dealer to be reclassified under another service group. This means that the cost basis of the differentials is reduced so that certain historical differentials may reflect a price differentiation in excess of current cost differences.

Retail dollars-and-cents maximum prices for meat products

As a preliminary to the rationing of meat products and to the regulation of livestock marketing and processing, specific dollars-and-cents maximum prices are being set for meat products by localities and class of store, according to an announcement made March 4, by the Office of Price Administration. This measure is designed to help eliminate evasion of present maximum price regulations and to reduce black market operations.

Rail wages in dispute

Rail wage rates have been in dispute since last autumn with the outcome of the matter still in doubt. The machinery of mediation and arbitration has failed to provide solution of the controversy, and an emergency board has recently been appointed to deal with the wage demands of the nonoperating unions.

Demands were originally made in October 1942 by the 14 nonoperating rail unions and the dining car workers, first to the western railroads, and then to the others, for a wage increase of 20 cents an hour, a minimum wage of 70 cents an hour, and a closed shop. The 20-cent an hour proposed increase would add about 27 percent to the average basic hourly rate. 3/ Altogether, the proposed increases would, on the basis of 1942 traffic, add about 450 million dollars per year to the costs of rail operation.

In December, the 5 unions of rail operating employees decided to demand a 30 percent increase in wages with a minimum increase of $3 a day. These increases would raise the cost of operation to the railroads by an estimated 350 million dollars per year.

The total increases demanded by both the nonoperating and operating unions would, if granted, add about 800 million dollars to the annual rail wage bill. Nearly a million rail workers would participate in the increases.

3/ The hourly earnings of employees in the nonoperating rail unions are said to vary from a general average of about 48 cents for messengers to about $1.32 for certain clerical groups. The average basic hourly rate for all nonoperating employees is reported to be 73.5 cents. If overtime earnings were averaged in, the average rate would be materially higher, perhaps as much as 80 cents per hour.

Rail rates and earnings

Net railway operating income (operating revenues minus operating expenses, taxes, and rentals) for the large Class I railroads amounted to 1.5 billion dollars in 1942. This was a record performance and exceeded by 0.2 billion dollars the previous high of 1.3 billion dollars earned in 1929 (table 3). The earnings in 1942 were more than double those in 1940 and better than 50 percent above those in 1941.

Concurrently with efforts of rail labor groups to increase their wages, the Office of Price Administration and others are endeavoring to have the rail rate increase granted about a year ago removed. These increases amounted generally to 3 percent on farm products, 6 percent on other products, and 10 percent on passengers. The rate advances were allowed as a direct result of rail wage increases, averaging about 12 percent on the basis of 1941 traffic, which were granted in December 1941.

Table 3.- Net railway operating income earned by Class I railroads, United States, 1925-42

Year	Net railway operating income (000,000 omitted)	Year	Net railway operating income (000,000 omitted)
	Dollars		Dollars
1925	1,211.1	1935	499.8
1926	1,213.1	1936	667.3
1927	1,068.0	1937	590.2
1928	1,172.9	1938	372.9
1929	1,251.7	1939	588.8
1925-29 av.	1,165.4	1935-39 av.	543.8
1930	868.9	1940	682.1
1931	525.6	1941	998.3
1932	326.3	1942	1,480.9
1933	474.3	1943	
1934	462.7	1944	
1930-34 av.	531.6		

Source: Interstate Commerce Commission, Statistics of Railways in the United States.

Mississippi River transportation

In the January issue of The Marketing and Transportation Situation there appeared a brief article on the possible uses of inland waterways in meeting the anticipated critical transportation situation. The article pointed out that the northbound traffic on the Mississippi River barge system was much heavier than the southbound, and that increased movement of southbound freight over the system might contribute something to an over-all saving in transportation facilities. This statement has aroused considerable interest and some controversy. The north-and-south rail traffic in the Mississippi Valley is similarly unbalanced, hence it is contended that saving in freight cars would be effected only where diversion to the barge lines involves no participation by the railroads in northern and southern terminals. Where such rail participation is necessary, the contention is that switching alone, not to mention the line hauls to and from the barge line terminals, will require use of the cars for a longer period of time than when the movement of traffic is entirely by railroad.

FARM-RETAIL PRICE SPREADS, FEBRUARY 1943

Farmer's share of retail food dollar increases into February 1943, marketing margin declines

Retail cost to consumers of domestic farm food products representing fixed quantities purchased annually per family advanced from $423 in December to $427 in January and $430 in February 1943. Prices of these foods have averaged higher than the 1929 level for the past 4 months but remained far below the record high represented by the cost of $514 in 1920.

Payments to farmers for equivalent quantities of produce rose about 2 percent during the month, from $240 in January to $245 in February 1943. The rate of payments to farmers for these food products has exceeded the 1929 rate since March 1942, but payments in February were 10 percent lower than the record high of 1920.

The spread between retail cost of specified food products and payments to farmers, representing total charges for marketing services between farmers and consumers, dropped 1 percent for the third consecutive month, reaching $185 in February 1943. The February marketing margin was 2 percent below the 1942 average and 3 percent below the 1935-39 pre-war level but was 4 percent higher than marketing charges in 1941.

In February 1943 farmers received 57 cents out of the consumer's dollar spent for farm food products. The farmer's share has risen steadily from 51 cents in June 1942 and compares with shares averaging 53 cents for 1942, 48 cents for 1941, a pre-war 1935-39 average of 42 cents, and 47 cents in 1929. Current levels of the farmer's share have not been exceeded since 1920.

Uncontrolled retail food prices rise into February, controlled prices decline

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that retail prices averaged for all foods edged upward 0.5 percent from January 12 to February 16, 1943. An increase of more than 4 percent for the group of uncontrolled items was partially offset by a decline of 1/10 percent in the level of prices for those foods subject to maximum price orders of the OPA. In mid-February the uncontrolled group included fish, apples, sweetpotatoes, and 5 fresh vegetable items. Expenditures

for this group have amounted to about 10 percent of total food costs of consumers. The rise in average price of the group was shared by all items except green beans which showed a 4 percent decline.

On February 23 and 25, temporary 60-day price freeze orders were issued by the OPA covering 7 important fresh vegetable items not previously under control. This action halted rapid upward trends of prices for fresh vegetables ascribed to the ration orders affecting canned, dried, and frozen vegetables and fruits.

Among the items subject to price control, significant retail price increases were shown for dairy products, roasting chickens, onions, potatoes, sweetpotatoes, navy beans, peanut butter, and vegetable shortening. Egg prices dropped seasonally by 13.5 percent.

Farm food prices rise 2 percent, egg prices drop 12 percent

The level of prices received by farmers for food products rose 2 percent from January to February 1943. Truck crop prices rose by 9 percent from January to February, following a decline of 5 percent for the previous month in line with retail price changes.

Trends in prices received by farmers from January into February showed higher than normal seasonal increases for grain products and fruit and truck crops, and showed a contraseasonal increase for dairy products. Egg prices dropped by more than the normal decline for the month.

Higher marketing margins for several food products in February

Although the margin for all farm food products declined from January into February, margins for several items showed significant increases. Marketing margins increased over the month by 15 percent for sweetpotatoes, 12 percent for white potatoes, and 7 percent for white flour and corn meal. The farmer's share of retail price in February 1943 was closely in line with the shares in February 1942 for a number of products including hens, eggs, bakery products, wheat cereal, rice, navy beans, lamb products, potatoes, and sweetpotatoes. At 57 cents in February the farmers share of the consumers dollar spent for 58 foods continued a rise unbroken since November 1942.

Charges for marketing pork products near lowest levels of record since 1917

Charges for marketing major pork products are measured by the spread between the composite retail prices of these products per pound of principal products and equivalent payments to farmers for live hogs adjusted for wholesale value of byproducts and minor products. This spread per pound of major products amounted to 9.2 cents in January and 8.7 cents in February 1943, declining from 10.2 in December 1942. The spread dropped to a low of 8.0 cents in August 1942 from 10.0 cents at the beginning of the year, and averaged 9.1 cents in 1942, 9.6 cents in 1941, and 11.8 cents for the pre-war 1935-39 period. During 1942 monthly average packers' sales value of all edible fresh hog products at Chicago fell below the cost of live hogs from which they were processed for the first time since 1917. However, most packers carry pork products through further curing and processing operations. The margin between cost of live hogs and sales value of fixed quantities of edible fresh and cured products amounted to $1.32 per hundred pounds of live hog in January 1942. This was less than half the pre-war 1935-39 margin of $2.73 and represented the lowest margin for any month since July 1919.

Cottonseed producers get two-thirds of mill-sales dollar

Charges for assembling, shipping and crushing cottonseed amounted to about $22 per ton in January and February 1943, about the same as in November and December of 1942. These charges, measured by the spread between payments to farmers for seed and mill sales value of crude oil, meal, linters and hulls, are substantially higher than the $17.40 averaged for the 1941-42 season. Farmers are receiving about 68 percent of mill sales value compared with 73 percent in 1941-42 and a pre-war 1935-39 average of 63 percent.

Family food costs compared to consumer income

The series of retail cost of specified food purchases compared to income per family which have been featured regularly in this publication are in process of revision and should appear in the next issue.

Table 4 .- Annual family purchases of 58 foods 1/

Year and month	Cost at retail	Paid to farmers 2/	Marketing margin 2/	Farmer's share of retail value 2/
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent
1913-15 average	256	135	121	53
1920	514	272	242	53
1929	415	195	220	47
1935-39 average	332	141	191	42
1940	314	132	182	42
1941	342	164	178	48
1942	398	209	189	53
1942 - Feb.	381	194	187	51
Mar.	384	195	187	51
Apr.	386	201	184	52
May	392	202	191	52
June	398	203	195	51
July	401	208	193	52
Aug.	402	215	187	53
Sept.	405	216	189	53
Oct.	414	224	190	54
Nov.	418	227	191	54
Dec.	423	234	189	55
1943 - Jan.	427	240	187	56
Feb.	430	245	185	57

1/ Important food products produced by American farmers combined in quantities representing annual purchase by a typical workingman's family.

2/ Revised for months of 1942.

Retail price averages for 51 cities from U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 5.- Cottonseed - Farm-to-mill sales price spreads and relative product values

Year beginning Aug. 1	Value of products per ton of seed 1/	Farm price per ton 2/	Actual margin	Farm value as percentage of product value	Percentage of product value attributed to - Crude oil	Cake and meal	Hulls	Linters
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1935-39 average	40.21	25.29	14.92	62.9	55.4	29.2	4.6	10.8
1940	37.80	21.72	16.08	57.5	46.6	31.6	5.3	16.5
1941	65.04	47.65	17.39	73.3	58.2	25.9	3.0	12.9
1942 3/- Aug.	65.97	43.94	22.03	66.6	60.0	24.1	3.2	12.7
Sept.	65.85	44.75	21.10	68.0	60.1	24.4	2.7	12.8
Oct.	66.16	45.45	20.71	68.7	59.8	24.7	2.8	12.7
Nov.	67.48	45.45	22.03	67.4	58.6	25.8	3.1	12.5
Dec.	67.54	45.56	21.98	67.5	58.6	25.8	3.1	12.5
Jan.	67.51	45.57	21.94	67.5	58.6	25.8	3.1	12.5
Feb.	4/67.51	45.60	21.91	67.5	58.6	25.8	3.1	12.5

1/ Mill product values on the basis of values reported for each season by the U. S. Bureau of the Census, interpolated and extrapolated by monthly wholesale market prices of the products.

2/ The monthly farm price is a weighted average of monthly prices received by farmers including several earlier months of farm sale to represent actual payment to farmers for seed crushed each month.

3/ Preliminary data. 4/No quotation for cottonseed meal. January price was used.

Table 6 .- Price spreads between the farmer and the consumer - food products, January 1943

Retail commodity	Table No. 1/	Retail: Unit	Retail: Price	Farm equivalent: Quantity	Farm equivalent: Value	Actual margin	Farm value as percentage of retail price
			Cents		Cents	Cents	Percent
Pork products	11	1 lb. prin. pork products	30.8	1.90 lb. live hog	26.7	4.1	87
Dairy products	12	100 lb. milk equivalent	434.0	100 lb. milk equivalent	2/247.2	186.8	57
Hens	13	1 lb.	44.4	1.11 lb.	24.5	19.9	55
Eggs	14	1 doz.	59.0	1 doz.	39.0	20.0	66
White flour	15	1 lb.	5.6	1.41 lb. wheat	2.8	2.8	50
White bread	16	1 lb.	8.6	.97 lb. wheat	1.9	6.7	22
Corn meal	17	1 lb.	5.2	1.5 lb. corn	2.4	2.8	46
Rolled oats	18	1 lb.	8.9	1.78 lb. oats	2.9	6.0	33
Corn flakes	19	8-oz. pkg.	7.0	1.275 lb. corn	2.0	5.0	29
Wheat cereal	20	28-oz. pkg.	24.2	2.065 lb. wheat	4.0	20.2	17
Rice	21	1 lb.	12.5	1.51 lb. rough rice	5.8	6.7	46
Navy beans	22	1 lb.	9.5	1 lb. dry beans	5.2	4.3	55
Oranges	24	1 doz.	39.0	1/17 box	8.9	30.1	23
Potatoes	25	1 lb.	3.6	1 lb.	2.0	1.6	56
Apples	35	1 lb.	7.4	1 lb.	3.3	4.1	45
Lamb products	37	1 lb. prin. lamb cuts	36.0	2.16 lb. live lamb	28.2	7.8	78
Sweetpotatoes	38	1 lb.	6.3	1 lb.	2.2	4.1	35
Rye bread	39	1 lb.	9.2	0.39 lb. rye & 0.64 lb. wheat	1.7	7.5	18
Whole wh. bread	40	1 lb.	10.0	0.92 lb. wheat	1.8	8.2	18
Macaroni	41	1 lb.	14.1	1.72 lb. durum wheat	3.2	10.9	23
Soda crackers	42	1 lb.	17.3	1.085 lb. wheat	2.1	15.2	12
Peanut butter	44	1 lb.	30.9	1.73 lb. peanuts	10.8	20.1	35
58 foods combined	8	Annual family consumption	$427	Annual family consumption	$240	$187	56

1/ Table numbers refer to numbering in original 1936 report and annual supplements entitled "Price Spreads Between Farmer and the Consumer".
2/ Preliminary.

Retail prices from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 7 .- Price spreads between the farmer and the consumer - food products, February 1943

Retail commodity	Table No. 1/	Retail Unit	Retail Price	Farm equivalent Quantity	Farm equivalent Value	Actual margin	Farm value as percentage of retail price
			Cents		Cents	Cents	Percent
Pork products	11	1 lb. prin. pork products	31.0	1.90 lb. live hog	27.8	3.2	90
Dairy products	12	100 lb. milk equivalent	438.0	100 lb. milk equivalent	249.9	188.1	57
Hens	13	1 lb.	46.0	1.11 lb.	25.3	20.7	55
Eggs	14	1 doz.	51.1	1 doz.	34.2	16.9	67
White flour	15	1 lb.	5.8	1.41 lb. wheat	2.8	3.0	48
White bread	16	1 lb.	8.6	.97 lb. wheat	1.9	6.7	22
Corn meal	17	1 lb.	5.4	1.5 lb. corn	2.4	3.0	44
Rolled oats	18	1 lb.	8.9	1.78 lb. oats	3.1	5.8	35
Corn flakes	19	8-oz. pkg.	7.0	1.275 lb. corn	2.1	4.9	30
Wheat cereal	20	28-oz. pkg.	24.2	2.065 lb. wheat	4.1	20.1	17
Rice	21	1 lb.	12.6	1.51 lb. rough rice	5.9	6.7	47
Navy beans	22	1 lb.	9.7	1 lb. dry beans	5.4	4.3	56
Oranges	24	1 doz.	37.4	1/17 box	11.3	26.1	30
Potatoes	25	1 lb.	3.9	1 lb.	2.1	1.8	54
Apples	35	1 lb.	7.8	1 lb.	3.6	4.2	46
Lamb products	37	1 lb. prin. lamb cuts	36.1	2.16 lb. live lamb	29.7	6.4	82
Sweetpotatoes	38	1 lb.	7.1	1 lb.	2.4	4.7	34
Rye bread	39	1 lb.	9.2	0.39 lb. rye & 0.64 lb. wheat	1.7	7.5	18
Whole wh. bread	40	1 lb.	10.0	0.92 lb. wheat	1.8	8.2	18
Macaroni	41	1 lb.	14.1	1.72 lb. durum wheat	3.3	10.8	23
Soda crackers	42	1 lb.	17.4	1.085 lb. wheat	2.2	15.2	13
Peanut butter	44	1 lb.	31.3	1.73 lb. peanuts	11.2	20.1	36
58 foods combined	8	Annual family consumption	$430	Annual family consumption	$245	$185	57

1/ Table numbers refer to numbering in original 1936 report and annual supplements entitled "Price Spreads Between the Farmer and the Consumer."
2/ Preliminary.
Retail prices from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 8 .- Price spreads between the farmer and the consumer - food products, retail price and farm value, February 1943

Commodity	Retail unit	Retail price: 1935-39 average	Retail price: Feb. 1942	Retail price: Jan. 1943	Retail price: Feb. 1943	Percentage change to Feb. 1943 from- Feb. 1942	Percentage change to Feb. 1943 from- Jan. 1943	Farm equivalent	Farm value: 1935-39 average	Farm value: Feb. 1942	Farm value: Jan. 1943	Farm value: Feb. 1943	Percentage change to Feb. 1943 from- Feb. 1942	Percentage change to Feb. 1943 from- Jan. 1943
		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent
Pork products	1 lb. prin. pork products	25.3	27.3	30.8	31.0	+ 14	+ 1	1.90 lb. live hog	15.7	22.5	26.7	27.8	+ 24	+ 4
Dairy products......	100 lb. milk equiv.	324.0	392.9	434.0	438.0	+ 11	+ 1	100 lb. milk equiv.	146.0	198.8	1/ 249.1	2/ 249.9	+ 26	3/
Hens	1 lb.	31.7	35.2	44.4	46.0	+ 31	+ 4	1.11 lb.	16.5	19.3	24.5	25.3	+ 31	+ 3
Eggs	1 doz.	36.0	42.2	59.0	51.1	+ 21	- 13	1 doz.	21.7	27.5	39.0	34.2	+ 24	-12
White flour	1 lb.	4.5	5.2	5.6	5.8	+ 12	+ 4	1.41 lb. wheat	2.0	2.5	2.8	2.8	+ 12	0
White bread	1 lb.	8.2	8.6	8.6	8.6	0	0	0.97 lb. wheat	1.3	1.7	1.9	1.9	+ 12	0
Corn meal	1 lb.	5.0	4.6	5.2	5.4	+ 17	+ 4	1.5 lb. corn	1.8	2.1	2.4	2.4	+ 14	0
Rolled oats	1 lb.	7.4	8.3	8.9	8.9	+ 7	0	1.78 lb. oats	1.9	2.9	2.9	3.1	+ 7	+ 7
Corn flakes	8-oz. pkg.	7.8	7.2	7.0	7.0	- 3	0	1.275 lb. corn	1.6	1.7	2.0	2.1	+ 24	+ 5
Wheat cereal	28-oz. pkg.	24.3	24.0	24.2	24.2	+ 1	0	2.065 lb. wheat	2.9	3.6	4.0	4.1	+ 14	+ 2
Rice	1 lb.	8.2	11.3	12.5	12.6	+ 12	+ 1	1.51 lb. rough rice	2.5	5.4	5.8	5.9	+ 9	+ 2
Navy beans	1 lb.	6.9	9.0	9.5	9.7	+ 8	+ 2	1 lb. dry beans	3.5	4.8	5.2	5.4	+ 12	+ 4
Oranges	1 doz.	31.5	26.2	39.0	37.4	+ 43	- 4	1/17 box	9.3	5.1	8.9	11.3	+122	+27
Potatoes	1 lb.	2.5	3.3	3.6	3.9	+ 18	+ 8	1 lb.	1.2	1.7	2.0	2.1	+ 24	+ 5
Apples	1 lb.	5.5	6.1	7.4	7.8	+ 28	+ 5	1 lb.	1.9	2.5	3.3	3.6	+ 44	+ 9
Lamb products	1 lb. prin. lamb cuts	27.2	28.8	36.0	36.1	+ 25	3/	2.16 lb. live lamb	16.2	23.1	28.2	29.7	+ 29	+ 5
Sweetpotatoes	1 lb.	4.4	5.0	6.3	7.1	+ 42	+13	1 lb.	1.5	1.8	2.2	2.4	+ 33	+ 9
Rye bread	1 lb.	9.1	9.1	9.2	9.2	+ 1	0	0.39 lb. rye and 0.64 lb. wheat	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.7	+ 6	0
Whole wheat bread	1 lb.	9.3	9.9	10.0	10.0	+ 1	0	0.92 lb. wheat	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.8	+ 12	0
Macaroni	1 lb.	15.0	14.1	14.1	14.1	0	0	1.72 lb. durum wheat	2.3	2.7	3.2	3.3	+ 22	+ 3
Soda crackers	1 lb.	16.9	16.2	17.3	17.4	+ 7	+1	1.085 lb. wheat	1.5	1.9	2.1	2.2	+ 16	+ 5
Peanut butter	1 lb.	19.3	21.7	30.9	31.3	+ 44	+ 1	1.73 lb. peanuts	6.1	9.4	10.8	11.2	+ 19	+ 4
58 foods combined	Annual family consumption	$ 332	$ 381	$ 427	$ 430	+ 13	+ 1	Annual family consumption	$141	$194	$240	$245	+ 26	+ 2

Retail prices are 51-city averages as published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics - Farm values are calculated from U. S. average farm price.

1/ Revised.
2/ Preliminary
3/ Less than 0.5 percent.

Table 9 .- Price spreads between the farmer and the consumer - food products, margins, and farm value as perce of retail price, February 1943

Commodity	Retail unit	Margin				Percentage change to Feb. 1943 from-		Farm value as percentage of retail price			
		1935-39 average	Feb. 1942	Jan. 1943	Feb. 1943	Feb. 1942	Jan. 1943	1935-39 average	Feb. 1942	Jan. 1943	Fe 19
		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Perce
Pork products	1 lb. prin.pork products	9.6	4.8	4.1	3.2	- 33	- 22	62	82	87	90
Dairy products	100 lb. milk equiv.	178.0	194.1	1/184.9	2/188.1	- 3	+ 2	45	51	57	57
Hens	1 lb.	15.2	15.9	19.9	20.7	+ 30	+ 4	52	55	55	55
Eggs	1 doz.	14.3	14.7	20.0	16.9	+ 15	- 16	60	65	66	67
White flour	1 lb.	2.5	2.7	2.8	3.0	+ 11	+ 7	44	48	50	48
White bread	1 lb.	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.7	- 3	0	16	20	22	22
Corn meal	1 lb.	3.2	2.5	2.8	3.0	+ 20	+ 7	36	46	46	44
Rolled oats	1 lb.	5.5	5.4	6.0	5.8	+ 7	- 3	26	35	33	35
Corn flakes	8-oz. pkg.	6.2	5.5	5.0	4.9	- 11	- 2	21	24	29	30
Wheat cereal	28-oz. pkg.	21.4	20.4	20.2	20.1	- 1	3/	12	15	17	17
Rice	1 lb.	5.7	5.9	6.7	6.7	+ 14	0	30	48	46	47
Navy beans	1 lb.	3.4	4.2	4.3	4.3	+ 2	0	51	53	55	56
Oranges	1 lb.	22.2	21.1	30.1	26.1	+ 24	- 13	30	19	23	30
Potatoes	1 lb.	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.8	+ 12	+ 12	48	52	56	54
Apples	1 lb.	3.6	3.6	4.1	4.2	+ 17	+ 2	35	41	45	46
Lamb products	1 lb.prin.lamb cuts	11.0	5.7	7.8	6.4	+ 12	- 18	60	80	78	82
Sweetpotaoes	1 lb.	2.9	3.2	4.1	4.7	+ 47	+ 15	34	36	35	34
Rye bread	1 lb.	7.8	7.5	7.5	7.5	0	0	14	18	18	18
Whole wh. bread	1 lb.	8.0	8.3	8.2	8.2	- 1	0	14	16	18	18
Macaroni	1 lb.	12.7	11.4	10.9	10.8	- 5	- 1	15	19	23	23
Soda crackers	1 lb.	15.4	14.3	15.2	15.2	+ 6	0	9	12	12	13
Peanut butter	1 lb.	13.2	12.3	20.1	20.1	+ 67	0	32	43	35	36
58 foods combined	Annual family consumption	$ 191	$ 187	$ 187	2/$ 185	- 1	- 1	42	51	56	57

1/ Revised. 2/Preliminary. 3/ Less than 0.5 percent.

Table 10 .- Farm products: Indexes of prices at several levels of marketing, 1935-39 = 100

Year and month	Cost of living of city families 1/	Foods			Fibers			Wholesale prices of all farm products 2/	Farm prices of all products 3/	Prices paid by farmers 3/
		Retail prices of all foods 1/	Wholesale prices 2/	Farm prices of 58 foods 3/	Retail prices of clothing 1/	Wholesale prices of textile products 2/	Farm prices of cotton and wool 4/			
1913	71	80	81	95	69	81	111	94	95	81
1914	72	82	82	97	70	77	97	94	95	80
1916	78	91	96	110	78	99	131	111	111	100
1918	108	134	151	174	128	193	281	195	190	141
1920	143	169	174	193	201	232	282	198	199	162
1929	122	132	126	138	115	127	167	138	137	123
1932	98	86	77	62	91	77	55	63	61	86
1935	98	100	106	98	97	100	109	104	102	100
1936	99	101	104	108	98	101	114	106	107	100
1937	103	105	108	113	103	107	111	114	114	105
1938	101	98	93	92	102	94	81	90	89	98
1939	99	95	89	89	100	98	85	86	88	97
1940	100	97	90	94	102	104	97	89	92	99
1941	105	105	105	116	106	119	131	108	115	105
1942	116	124	126	148	124	136	178	139	148	122
1939 - Aug.		94	85	85		96	85	80	83	96
Sept.	101	98	95	95	100	101	91	90	92	98
1942- Jan.	112	116	119	138	116	132	164	133	140	117
Feb.	113	117	120	138	119	134	171	133	137	118
Mar.	114	119	122	138	124	136	174	135	137	121
Apr.	115	120	125	143	126	138	183	138	141	121
May	116	122	125	143	126	138	184	137	143	122
June	116	123	126	144	125	137	176	137	143	122
July	117	125	125	148	125	137	178	139	142	122
Aug.	118	126	127	152	125	137	174	140	152	122
Sept.	118	127	130	153	126	137	179	142	151	123
Oct.	119	130	131	159	126	137	182	143	156	124
Nov.	120	131	131	161	126	137	184	145	158	125
Dec.	120	5/133	5/132	5/166	126	137	5/187	150	170	125
1943- Jan.	121	6/133	6/133	170	126	137	6/189	154	174	127
Feb.	121	134	134	6/174	126	137	188	157	171	129

1/ From "Changes in Cost of Living" Bureau of Labor Statistics.
2/ Calculated from figures of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
3/ Based on figures published by the United States Department of Agriculture.
4/ Cotton and wool prices weighted by production in the period 1935-39.
5/ Revised.
6/ Preliminary estimate.

Table 11 .- Indexes of food costs, consumer income and of charges and hourly earnings in marketing, 1935-39 = 100

Year and month	Retail cost of 58 foods	Non-agricultural income payments 1/	Monthly earnings per employed factory worker 2/	Payments to farmers for 58 foods	Marketing margin of 58 foods	Hourly earnings in marketing enterprises: Class I steam railways 3/	Food processing 4/	Food marketing 5/	Cotton processing 4/
1929	125	122	118	138	115	93	-	-	-
1935-39 average	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1940	95	115	111	94	95	105	110	105	106
1941	103	137	132	116	93	106	116	110	119
1942	120	169	166	148	99	119	128	120	139
1942 - Feb.	115	6/ 155	6/ 146	138	98	122	125	119	131
Mar.	116	6/ 158	6/ 150	138	99	119	126	118	132
Apr.	116	6/ 161	6/ 154	143	97	118	128	119	132
May	118	6/ 163	6/ 158	143	99	118	129	120	136
June	120	6/ 168	6/ 162	144	102	117	130	120	136
July	121	6/ 170	6/ 171	148	101	117	128	120	6/136
Aug.	121	6/ 173	6/ 172	152	98	117	6/ 125	120	141
Sept.	122	6/ 174	6/ 174	153	99	119	6/ 125	121	148
Oct.	125	6/ 178	6/ 175	6/ 159	99	118	6/ 130	122	148
Nov.	126	6/ 184	6/ 184	6/ 161	100	121	6/ 131	123	149
Dec.	127	6/ 187	6/ 183	166	99	120	133	122	149
1943 - Jan.	129	6/ 190	7/ 189	170	98	120	134	126	150
Feb.	130	7/ 193	0	174	97	-	-	-	-

1/United States Department of Commerce estimates. Adjusted for seasonal variation. Revised series.
2/Prepared in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from data of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, adjusted for seasonal variation.
3/Compiled from data published by the Interstate Commerce Commission.
4/United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.
5/Weighted composite of earnings in steam railways, food processing, wholesaling, and retailing.
6/Revised.
7/Preliminary estimates.

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